स्थानीय राष्ट्रीय कैडेट कोर यूनिटों और शैक्षणिक संस्थाओं के बीच अपेक्षित समन्वय नियमित आधार पर बना रहता है।

गांवों को पक्की सड़क से जोड़ा जाना

*116. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 31 मार्च, 1996 तक देश के प्रत्येक राज्य में पांच सौ से अधिक जनसंख्या वाले ऐसे कितने-कितने गांव थे जहां पहुंचने के लिए पक्की सड़क नहीं थी;

(ख) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इन गांवों को पक्की सड़क से जोड़ने के लिए कोई योजना तैयार की है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी॰जी॰ वेंकटरामन): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा-पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

High-Powered body for settlement of inter-state river-water disputes

*117. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring the inter-State rivers, dams, lakes and other large water bodies/resources under the purview of the Central Government by effecting necessary changes in the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether such a legislation is being proposed to be introduced in the current session of Parliament;

(c) whether Government propose to create a high-powered permanent body to settle and expedite the inter-State river-water disputes pending at present; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) A proposal for bringing the subject of water in the concurrent list of the constitution, is under examination.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. However, the need for setting up of a Standing Water Dispute Tribunal was discussed in the 7th meeting of National Water Board held on 23-5-1995, but no consensus could be arrived at.

Widening of Karakoram Highway

*118. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Hindustan Times dated May 21, 1996, regarding the widening of Karakoram highway linking Pakistan with China; and

(b) if so, whether Government view it as a development of strategic concern in the context of peace prospects in the region; and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Karakoram Highway involves the use of Indian territory in that portion of the State of Jammu & Kashmir which is under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. India has consistently protested since 1969, when the construction of the Highway was undertaken, against Pakistani activity in this regard. Neither the Karakoram Highway nor its upgradation would confer any right or any legal authority on Pakistan. Further, the proposed upgradation and the administrative arrangements which may flow out of it as well as any traffic through this route would only be a consequence of the fact of Pakistan's illegal occupation.

The Karakoram Highway can be used for military purposes. It, therefore, impinges upon India's security. Government consistently monitors all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard and defend India's security interests.